

Chronology of Significant Events at UTPB during President Sorber's Tenure

November 1992

The U. T. System Board of Regents announces the appointment of Charles A. Sorber as the fourth president at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin

1993

A new logo for the University, selected through an area-wide contest, is approved by the U. T. Board of Regents

1994

Major renovations and capital improvements to the Mesa Building and Gymnasium begin. The project will extend over several years, with almost \$4 million in PUF monies allocated to the project

A sports task force recommends the creation of a new athletic program, focusing on women's volleyball, men's soccer, and women's softball. Volleyball and soccer teams compete as club teams during the fall season.

1995

President's Day Convocation is held for the first time, with a tribute to the first three presidents of the University

The inaugural Ellen and Bill Noël Energy Lecture is held at the University's Center for Energy and Economic Diversification

The Texas Legislature approves funding for the creation of the Regional Electronic Academic Communications Highway (REACH) program center, a distance learning service center for the region, to be located at UTPB

In the same legislative session, the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute at UTPB is created

UTPB joins the National Athletic Intercollegiate Association as an independent member

1996

UTPB Library renamed J. Conrad Dunagan Library in honor of long-time University supporter who died in 1995

Falcons' Nest, a new apartment-style campus housing community, is completed and welcomes its first residents

Approval by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of new graduate degree program – Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration

1997-98

The University celebrates its Silver Anniversary, during which time 24 new scholarships are endowed, including 15 as Endowed Presidential Scholarships, the largest single scholarships awarded at UTPB

\$25.8 million is allocated by the Texas Legislature through HB 1235 for the construction of the first new instructional buildings on the campus since 1974 - new Visual Arts Studios and a Library/Lecture Center

Approval by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of new graduate degree program – Master of Public Accountancy

1998

Groundbreaking for the new Visual Arts Studios is held in conjunction with a meeting in Odessa of the U. T. Board of Regents

UTPB athletics program joins the newly-formed Red River Athletic Conference; both the volleyball and soccer teams advance for the first time to post-season play

President Sorber appointed to serve on Odessa Development Corporation by City Councilman Frank Deaderick; Dr. Sorber serves as first ODC president

1999

Construction begins on the new Library/Lecture Center

HB 229 passes Legislature, which will facilitate construction of new Student Union at UTPB

Two new undergraduate programs approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board – B.A. in multidisciplinary studies and B.S. in environmental science

New graduate programs approved – M.A. in education, bilingual/English as a Second Language, cooperative Master of Public Administration degree with Angelo State University, cooperative Master of Criminal Justice Administration with Angelo State University

UTPB volleyball team wins the Red River Athletic Conference tournament, and men's soccer team advances to post-season play

Dr. Sorber is named Community Statesman in Education by the Heritage of Odessa Foundation

New walking/hiking/biking trails at UTPB officially open

2000

Sorber spearheads the making of a television public service announcement in collaboration with the Permian Basin Higher Education Consortium to encourage area eighth grade students to sign up for the Recommended High School Plan thereby increasing their eligibility for scholarships and grants (02/04/00)

Visual Arts Studios are officially dedicated (2/7/00)

Four UTPB Lady Falcon volleyball players named to All-Conference by the Red River Athletic Conference (05/12/00)

The master of science degree in kinesiology is offered online (06/14/00)

The U. T. Permian Basin Alumni Association awards Sorber an honorary membership for his "outstanding contribution to the University and for his steadfast support of the Alumni Association" (07/01/00)

U. T. Permian Basin adds the Bachelor of Art's Degree with a Major in Multidisciplinary Studies with a Leadership Studies Concentration (07/25/00)

U. T. Permian Basin's John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute sponsors two high school leadership courses that can be taken for state high school elective credit (0725/00)

The 2,800-pound bronze landmark sculpture of a 19th Century cowboy and his horse, "An Honest Day's Work," is unveiled outdoors in the island fronting the entrance to the Library/Lecture Center. The University's largest artwork was a gift from Ted and Jan Roden. (09/07/2000)

U. T. Board of Regents approve the design-development plan for the Presidential Museum and Leadership Library (09/10/00)

Enrollment of Hispanic students increases 13 percent for Fall 2000, compared to Fall 1999, and continues the trend of rising 13 percent per year for five consecutive years. The Fall 2000 freshman

class reflected an increase from 37 percent to almost half of the class. Total enrollment increases 2 percent with semester credit hours increasing more than 4 percent (09/20/00)

A ribbon cutting ceremony is conducted to officially open the renovated Student Recreation Center. The 24-year-old structure was renovated with grants and donations from Burlington Resources and the Helen Greathouse Foundation (10/11/00)

2001

Breezeway enclosed to create an enclosed lobby for the Mesa Building (January 2001)

Construction begins on the Student Union (January 2000) Three-dimensional metal falcon created by former Midland artist Nancy Maynard The 10-piece Roden Western Heritage Art Collection is permanently housed in the Library/Lecture Center along with the three-dimensional metal falcon

Library/Lecture Center officially dedicated (2/9/2001)

A new water feature, patio and landscaping front the Library/Lecture Center and join the Mesa Courtyard

UTPB's kinesiology students win first place in presenting scientific papers at the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine competition at Texas Christian University

U.T. Permian Basin's John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute awards Sorber the John Ben Shepperd Distinguished Texas Leader Medallion during the Feb. 1 Distinguished Lecture.

Presidential Museum and Leadership Library groundbreaking (4/12/2001)